Corene Alvarado. I am currently in my third year of a Clinical and Community Psychology Ph.D. Program at the University of Alaska. This program specifically addresses multicultural and indigenous issues, and encourages us, as future psychologists, to see the whole person by taking into account mind, body, culture, and religious beliefs. My research focus is on spiritual faith and its impact on mental healing. I currently work in an acute state psychiatric hospital as a doctoral level psychology practicum student. Through this work, I am continuously stuck by the fact that nearly all of my patients want to discuss God, and whether their life has meaning and purpose in their self-proclaimed state of “wretchedness”; yet so often the hospital’s primary concern is short solution based treatments that do not address spirituality, which could perhaps be a major component of the individual’s recovery. As a researcher, I would like to identify evidence-based practices that address these concerns. E-mail: calvarad@alaska.edu.

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James Chin, Ph.D. I am an experienced Professional Psychologist and a Professor of Mental Health Counseling and Psychology at Nyack College, New York. I have two goals for attending the Duke University Research workshops. First, I seek an update on the current empirical research on the relationship between spirituality and mental/physical health. Second, I seek to develop a professional network of resources to obtain grant funds to contribute new research in this field and to share these resources with the Nyack College faculty and student body. E-mail: James.Chin@nyack.edu.

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